

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09184 061856Z

70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-02 SNM-02 AID-05 L-03 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0605

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

DEA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, GW

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - MANDRAX ABUSE

REF: A. STATE 123624 B. BONN 07771

1. WE UNDERSTAND RATIONALE BEHIND DEPARTMENT RELUCTANCE
TO ATTEMPT MODIFICATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION IN
ORDER TO FACILITATE TIGHTER CONTROLS BY FRG OVER
MANDRAX, THE DRUG ABUSED SECOND MOST FREQUENTLY BY
US MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE FRG.

AS EXPLAINED IN REF B, HOWEVER, WITHOUT SOME JUSTIFI-

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PAGE 02 BONN 09184 061856Z

CATION FROM OUT-OF-COUNTRY SOURCES, FRG MINISTRY OF

YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH (FMOYFH) OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION FURTHER RESTRICTING MANDRAX AVAILABILITY.

2. IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SUCH SUPPORT, FMOYFH INTENDS TO APPROACH DR. CHRUSCIEL, SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR, OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH, WHO, GENEVA, TO INQUIRE AS TO POSSIBILITY OF WHO STUDY OF MANDRAX AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS, I.E., WHAT IN THE COMPOSITION OF MANDRAX MAKES IT A DRUG OF CHOICE RATHER THAN OTHER METHAQUALONE BASED DRUGS; WHAT IS THE ADDICTIVE EFFECT OF MANDRAX; TO WHAT EXTENT IS AN ADDICTIVE EFFECT PRODUCED BY MANDRAX ABUSE, ETC.

3. COMMENT: MANDRAX IS THE DRUG ABUSED SECOND MOST FREQUENTLY BY US ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE FRG (OPIATES ARE NUMBER ONE). APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL DRUG ABUSE IN THE FRG INVOLVES MANDRAX. MANDRAX (METHAQUALONE) ABUSE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, E.G., FROM 10 HOSPITALIZATIONS PER MONTH IN 1973 TO 56 PER MONTH IN 1974; FROM 11 DEATHS DUE TO METHAQUALONE ABUSE IN 1973 TO 17 IN 1974. FRG MOVES TO RESTRICT MANDRAX DISTRIBUTION HAVE BEEN MADE PRIMARILY IN RESPONSE TO USAREUR AND EMBASSY APPROACHES. (FRG REPORTS SHOW MANDRAX IS NOT A PRESSING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AMONG THE GERMAN POPULATION.) IT WOULD THEREFORE BE APPROPRIATE FOR USG TO SUPPORT FRG MOVE AT WHO TO DEVELOP BODY OF KNOWLEDGE RE MANDRAX WHICH WOULD ALLOW FRG TO FURTHER TIGHTEN MANDRAX CONTROLS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO THIS RECOMMENDATION ASAP.
HILLENBRAND

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